

And They Lived Happily Ever After (Ruth 4:13-17)

Proposition: Every redeemed child of God can gain heart encouraging insight in to present and future days by gleaning out the relational principals found in the verse before us tonight.

I. The Moment We Linger In (Ch. 3:13-14)

A. We Linger In His Declaration (Ch. 3:13)

B. We Linger in Our Dedication (Ch. 3:14)

II. The Marriage We Long For (Vs. 13)

A. A Glorious Marriage (Vs. 13a)

B. A Gracious Marriage (Vs. 13b)

III. The Master We Look To (Vs. 13c-17)

A. A Redeeming Master (Vs. 14)

B. A Restoring Master (Vs. 15)

C. A Revered Master (Vs. 17)

And They Lived Happily Ever After (Ru 4:13-17)

Let me say first and foremost, that the events that took place in the Book of Ruth did actually take place.

This (as well as the rest of your Bible) is no fairy tale. Naomi, Ruth, + Boaz were real people. But you could not up to a better title to the end of the Book of Ruth than the one that came labeled it with today. The verses before us tonight indicate that Boaz and Ruth got married, had a baby and lived happily ever after. Reminds me of the little girl telling her mother

the story of Snow White and the seven dwarfs. When she got to the place where the prince kisses Snow White and awakes her from her sleep, the little girl said "Mother do you know what happened then?" The Mother, knowing how the story ended said, "They lived happily ever after." The little girl said "Oh no mamma, they got married." Well in the case of Ruth + Boaz, they did get married and lived happily ever after too. What is

The Moment We Live In - Presently the child of God is espoused, betrothed to the Lord Jesus. 2 Cor 11:2 Paul said as crossed as done, but not yet. There is a

wedding day coming. But now we await his coming.

A. We Linger in His Declaration - (3:13)

Boaz gave her a promise. I will do the part of the kinsman redeemer, but you must wait. Ruth was to rest in the promise he had declared. That is so much the role of the child of God. We rest in the promise of his deliverance we rest in the promise of His care. We rest in the promise of his coming. Jesus

said in John 14:1-3. Paul told Titus John Wesley - The Spirit in the heart of the true believer says w/ earnest desire "Come Lord Jesus"

B. We Linger in Our Dedication - Vs 14.

Until the morning came she stayed at his feet. While we wait for our marriage to him, we are to stay steadfast at his feet. We live in a world today where dedication and faithfulness is in short supply. Whether it is in our companies, our homes or our churches faithfulness is in short supply. It seems as though we have forgotten that the Bible said "Be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord." Or maybe we should

II. The Marriage We Long For.

We know from our text that Boaz kept his word. (4:13) What a story! What a wedding! The pauper marrying the prince. A

1) ...What is so wonderful is that the closing verses not only tell the story of the rest of Boaz and Ruth's days, but gives is special insight into the closing chapters of our happliy ever after as well. Every redeemed child of God can gain heart encouraging insight in to present and future days by gleaning out the relational principals found in the verse before us tonight.

2) 2 Corinthians 11:2 For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.

3) John 14:1-3 Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. Titus 2:13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

4) ...we should put it like Dr. Seuss' Horton of "*Horton Hears A Who*" I meant what I said and said what I meant. An elephant's faithful one hundred percent! Are you faithful in your waiting?

1) ...a begger marrying a baron! What a glorious and gracious wedding!

2) ...universal proportions. Let me read a little from the ceremony:

Revelation 19:1-9 And after these things I heard a great voice of much people in heaven, saying, Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our God: For true and righteous are his judgments: for he hath judged the great whore, which did corrupt the earth with her fornication, and hath avenged the blood of his servants at her hand. And again they said, Alleluia. And her smoke rose up for ever and ever. And the four and twenty elders and the four beasts fell down and worshipped God that sat on the throne, saying, Amen; Alleluia. And a voice came out of the throne, saying, Praise our God, all ye his servants, and ye that fear him, both small and great. And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth. Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.

servant marrying a sovereign a beggar marrying a
A. O Glorious Marriage (13a) - What
a Marriage it must have been. He
had loved Ruth and paid the redemption
price for her. He had retained the
delight of his eyes and the desire of his
heart. How wonderful for Ruth, she
would no longer be a worker among the
sheaves, but a wife by his side. Note the
word "took" is to "carry away to fetch"
one of these days our heavenly Boaz the
Lord Jesus will come to take his bride
home for a wedding of universal proportion.

B. O Gracious Marriage - A Mid-
west preacher received this thank you
note from a bridegroom he had married:
Dear Reverend! I want to thank you for the
beautiful way you brought my happiness
to a conclusion. Well her joy was not con-
cluding, it was just getting started! You
think about it! Sil! Boaz was the most
eligible bachelor in Bethlehem! Ruth was
a nobody from a wrong side of the tracks.
Hopeless and helpless. But Boaz fell in love w/
her! That's the grace of God my friend!

III. The Master We Look To: Most
of the Wedding today it is the Bride
that gets the most attention. All the
brides that turn heads. But in Biblical

weddings the focus is on the bridegroom. So J

A. A Redeeming Master - (14) Boaz was the near Kinsman that made all this possible. The price that he paid made this wedding and deliverance possible. Christ is the focus of the household of God, because of the redemption price he paid our covenant w/ him is possible. Charles Wesley said it best in a

B. A Restoring Master - v15 Note what they said to Naomi: restorer of life nurser in old age. Everything that she had lost in the death of Elimelech was regained in Boaz. And because of Him, her days on earth will be strengthened. Everything that the sinner lost in the sin + death of Adam is regained in

C. A Revere Master - c1t wasn't long until the pitter patter of little feet was heard in the house of Boaz. That baby got an unusual name hung on it. "Obed" The name means "worship." Finally these women said every time you get around Ruth or Naomi and that Baby, you hear them worshipping! Worship is the result our love.

IV. Close - You know if it were a fairy tale we could have opened it up w/ once upon a time and closed it w/ and they lived happily ever after. No Fairy tale. It's your story + mine if you know the Lord.

1) ...best in a poem he wrote on the first anniversary of his conversion: O for a thousand tongues to sing, my great redeemer's praise!"

2) ...regained in Christ Jesus. The fellowship with God. The pleasure of God. The Hope in God. All regained in Christ. The wonderful thing about Christianity is that the strength of a believer is not found in their, vitality and youth. Usually in their age, comes greater power with God. **2 Corinthians 4:16** For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day.

3) ...our love for our redeemer the Lord Jesus! Don't tell me you love the Lord if you never worship Him!